in transport cost due to hike in prices of diesel and petroleum products, it has contributed to the inflationary pressures.

Non-availability of tickets to pilgrims visiting Ayodhya

247. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state·

(a) the names of Railways stations in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and other States in the country where passenger tickets for Ayodhya were not available to the pilgrims, etc intending to go to Ayodhya on the occasion of annual Parikarma there on October 30 last, and

(b) the estimated number of total persons in all who have thus been deprived of their freedom to practice the religion of their belief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS)· (a) and (b) At all Railway stations wherever tickets for Ayodhya were demanded, these were issued to the pilgrims

Oil Palm Cultivation

248. SHRI VIREN J. JHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state·

(a) whether an Expert Committee under Dr K. L Chadha, former Horticulture Commissioner, has identified the land nearly six lakh hectares spread over nine States as suitable for oil palm cultivation;

(b) whether Government are planning to promote oil palm cultivation as independent viable plantations which could be taken up by Corporations and Cooperatives; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to a cess for oilseed development payable to the apex body NDDB or alternatively, associate NDDB in planned expansion of oil palm plantation so that it does not hurt Indian farmers in terms of depressed prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH). (a) A Working Group with Dr K L. Chadha as Chairman in its report has identified 5.75 lakh hectares spread over nine States as suitable for oil palm cultivation.

(b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has prepared a plan to promote oil palm cultivation by farmers primarily through cooperatives during the 8th Plan.

(c) In the plan prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, NDDB has been suggested as the nodal agency for promoting oil palm development in the areas recommended by the Working Group

Mixing of edible oils with imported oils

249 SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN·

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "NDDB for legalised mixing of edible oils" which appeared in "The Economic Times" dated December 12, 1990, regarding the suggestion of Dr. Kurien to legalise mixing of edible oils with low prices imported ones to hold the edible oil price line;

(b) what is the time schedule conceived for effecting the needed legislation;

(c) whether NDDB would be allowed to import edible oil, against exports of extractions from the NDDB assisted State Federation and also exports of skimmed milk in order to intervene effectively in the market; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND